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**Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind  
Media and Communications Division**

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Teachers National Finalists in 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Shell Science Lab Challenge!**

**PHOENIX DAY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF TO RECEIVE \$8,000 FOR A  
SCIENCE LAB MAKEOVER TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' LEARNING NEEDS**



**Phoenix Day School for the Deaf Award-Winning Science Teachers Toni Cascioli (l) and Stacy Weiss (r)**

**Phoenix, AZ, April 5, 2018** –[Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind \(ASDB\)](http://www.asdb.org) Superintendent Annette Reichman proudly announced that Phoenix Day School for the Deaf (PDS) science teachers Toni Cascioli and Stacy Weiss were chosen as national finalists in the 2018 Shell Science Lab Challenge! The PDS teacher duo were chosen as one of only four national finalists; each finalist will receive a science lab makeover support package for their school valued at \$8,500. The grant award will help ASDB upgrade its Phoenix Day School for the Deaf science laboratory and enhance the quality of science education student receive through higher-level hands-on learning activities and experiments.

“I could not be more proud of Toni Cascioli and Stacy Weiss and all of ASDB’s teachers who work hard every day to find innovative ways, despite limited resources, to expand access to enriching learning experiences for students who are deaf and/or blind,” said ASDB Superintendent Annette Reichman.

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“I’d like to thank Shell Oil Company and the National Science Teachers Association for generously providing PDSB with the critical funding needed to upgrade its lab equipment and facilities. Their investment in PDSB will go a long way to ensure students who are deaf and hard of hearing receive access to a top-notch science education.”

To enter the Shell Science Lab Challenge, 6–12 grade science teachers in the U.S. and Canada were asked to describe their school’s current laboratory resources, explain why the school’s laboratory facilities might be classified as “limited” resources, and describe their approach to science instruction utilizing their school’s current lab facilities. A panel of science educators reviewed and selected the top entries. For more information about the Challenge, visit the competition [website](#).

“Phoenix Day School for the Deaf is honored to have been selected as a national finalist for this prestigious grant,” said PDSB principal Courtney Fritz. “Science is a critical component to our students’ learning, and this grant will allow us to provide more hands-on experiences for our students. I am impressed by Stacy’s and Toni’s drive and desire to improve science education for our students.”

Toni Cascioli and Stacy Weiss know that middle school is where students begin to develop interests that can lead them down exciting career paths. They want to provide their students with a high quality science education that empowers them to be successful members of the scientific community and role models for their deaf and hard of hearing peers.

“Stacy and I were proud to represent our school and ASDB at the National Science Teacher Association in Atlanta, Georgia,” said PDSB teacher Toni Cascioli. “We were able to meet and learn from science educators from all over the US and the world! We are honored to be Shell Science Lab Challenge finalists, and will use the grant money to create more inquiry-based experiments and lab activities for students.”

### **About NSTA**

The Arlington, VA-based [National Science Teachers Association](#) is the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence in science teaching and learning, preschool through college. NSTA’s membership includes approximately 55,000 science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business representatives, and others involved in science education.

### **About Shell Oil Company**

Shell Oil Company is an affiliate of the Royal Dutch Shell plc, a global group of energy and petrochemical companies with operations in more than 70 countries. In the U.S., Shell operates in 50 states and employs more than 20,000 people working to help tackle the challenges of the new energy future.

*The [Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind \(ASDB\)](#) was founded in 1912 – the year of Arizona’s statehood. ASDB serves over 2,000 children who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard-of-hearing, multisensory disabled or deafblind from birth to age 21. ASDB operates two schools for the deaf, one school for the blind, a statewide birth-to-three early childhood and family education program and five regional cooperatives. ASDB is dedicated to empowering young children and students with the educational opportunities necessary to succeed in college, career and life. For more information, contact Ryan Ducharme at [ryan.ducharme@asdb.az.gov](mailto:ryan.ducharme@asdb.az.gov) or 602-771-1092.*